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DATE April 23 1953

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SUBJECT: Fortnightly Newsletter - April 6 - 18, 1953.

POLITICAL

North-South Disagreement Remains Unresolved

Sir John MACPHERSON, Governor of Nigeria, completed visit to London, returning here April 18, for consultation with Colonial Office in re present North-South disagreement on issue of acceptance policy of self-government in 1956. No news released on context or result London talks. Nationalist press conjectures that Sir John instructed break up temporary NCNC-Action Group cooperation this issue. AWOLOWO saw Governor briefly prior to London trip; AG leader reports he complained Governor not accompanied by reps nationalist political parties instead of by Lt.-Governor Western Region. Press highly critical of Governor, carrying extremely impolite and bitter references to him as "major obstacle to Nigerian freedom."

Sardauna of Sokoto and Awolowo engaged in public exchange of statements in re North-South disagreement. Sardauna typified AG motion in House as purely political move with no thought Nigerian welfare. Awolowo replied that Sardauna had said he in favor adoption motion calling for self-government in 1956 but Northern Emirs would oppose it. Press filled since with comments, generally on line that Northern leaders "minions of British" and "imperialist stooges." This attitude in South certainly not calculated heal breach.

Nationalist press not impressed by efforts NWAPA, NJOKU, ARIKPO and other members National Independence Party mediate and solve crisis. NIP accused being same kind "stooges" as North, also "turncoats." Latter result their being expelled from NCNC late last year. NIP leaders reply by assailing casual treatment of facts by NCNC and Action Group nationalists.

Western Region chiefs (obas, etc.) held special meeting on crisis.

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crisis. Meeting of 28 leaders unanimously passed resolution approving controversial motion submitted in House of Representatives by ENAHORO in last session, calling for self-government in 1956. Also resolved Western Region would resubmit to Governor names of resigned Central ministers as often as submission of names called for.

Speeches and press comments continue show no understanding North's stand on issue. Their position still painted as in opposition to self-government per se. No evidence understanding that North's main objection based on positive date and have no objection attainment self-government. Appears deliberate effort by nationalists to arouse public against Northern position.

Position of British Cameroons Again in Public Eye

The self-government issue has brought to forefront the position of British Cameroons in government of Nigeria. Former strict adherence so-called "Cameroons Bloc" to NCNC now shaken by "neutrality" position Dr. ENDELEY and others in Cameroons group. Endeley (Central minister) and S. A. GEORGE both state Cameroons should not participate "actively" in Nigerian politics, meaning not take sides in present disagreement. N. N. MBILE, Cameroons member House of Reps and staunch NCNCer insists Cameroons' best bet still strict support NCNC in view its avowed support Cameroons demand (by certain Cameroons elements only) for separate regional legislature and unification French and British Cameroons under Nigeria. Clear evidence of lack Cameroons unity given in this issue.

Northern Elements Progressive Union More Active

Firm stand Northern members House of Reps against recent self-government motion has been seized upon by NEPU as issue for political rallies and membership drives. Kano and other Northern cities location of recent public meetings NEPU in protest stand of Sardauna of Sokoto and other Northern leaders. Anti-Emir agitation this party and southern groups undoubtedly will have some effect in enhancing position NEPU among those northerners discontented with present system government that Region. Present Northern leaders not showing critical concern over NEPU's challenge yet.

Mau Mau in Nigerian Limelight

Nationalist press carrying almost daily comments in re possibility mau mau type operation as solution Nigerian problem. Both Action Group and NCNC party leaders evidently allowing their party newspapers carry on with this line. Second-line party

figures both

figures both groups allude to same solution for ejection foreign "imperialists" in recent speeches. This line could be dangerous device for nationalists in their efforts arouse people to their stand on self-government. Daily Times and Daily Service both carrying H. O. DAVIES' articles on "Land of the Mau Mau" written as result his recent trip to Kenya in defense KENYATTA. Davies' articles show little real understanding Kenya issues and are mere recital recurring African nationalist's complaints and condemnations Kenya administration.

Lagos Town Council Rejects Non-Nigerian Town Clerk

Lagos Town Council now using Acting Clerk only as it refuses appoint any non-Nigerian to post. State "expatriate" clerk contrary avowed "Nigerianization" Policy here. Post has long been center of controversy among Nigerian political groups in Lagos. Crown Agent sent instructions by LTC discontinue efforts recruit British clerk for post.

The Mosquito in Nigerian Politics

Anopheles mosquito enters local politics second time in recent months. Article in Daily Times by University College lecturer (Ph.D. London University) suggests mosquito be portrayed on Nigerian National Flag in recognition its effectiveness prohibiting complete white settlement Nigeria. This well-educated Nigerian teacher says if mosquito not so dangerous Nigerians would by now all be corralled into "reserves" to work for white man in his money-making plantations. Because mosquito so deadly Nigeria now near self-government instead. Writer of article showed no recognition tragedy of thousands his compatriots killed each year, while whites live safely under protection of malaria suppressives.

ECONOMIC

Railway Workers Union Announces Disassociation From ICFTU

The Central Executive Council of Railway Workers' Union announced decision have no further dealings or association with International Confederation Free Trade Unions. Further decisions condemns association with all foreign trade union bodies. No evidence yet action result weak pro-Communist figures in RWU; more probably result of rabid nationalists lashing out at foreign influence in Africa. Statement claimed ICFTU against Nigerian nationalism and is direct representative governments now practicing oppressive rule in Africa. Statement ended by saying, typically, "We ask the ICFTU to leave us alone. We shall never be stooges. We will never accept their scholarships and allowances." Executive action no indicator of sentiment rank and file of this loosely organized union.

General

General Secretary of Association of Nigerian Railway Civil Servants (white collar union) made public reply refuting RWU points. Reminded that collapse of RWU when it was affiliated with WFTU no cause reject ICFTU, as Communist-controlled international body was, and is, detrimental to growth local unions. He states future happiness and well-being workers of world lies in association with ICFTU--which does support self-determination of national groups.

Kano Airport Improvements Completed

Announcement made of completion Kano's new 3000 yard runway. Lights for day and night operation to be completed within fifteen days. New terminal building and facilities scheduled for 1955 completion.

Free Fertilizer Samples to Eastern Region Farmers

Eastern Region Agriculture Department will distribute one pound chemical fertilizer to any farmer for experimentation. Gift to encourage farmers to try fertilizer on farms to observe beneficial results.

Local Firm to Sell Coca Cola

Final work on bottling plant for Coca Cola in Lagos almost completed. First sales originally scheduled for mid-April but delayed by machinery installation difficulties. Franchise being exercised by A. G. Leventis and Co.

GENERAL

Plans for Census in Eastern Region

May 4 is date set for beginning campaign to familiarize people of East with census methods. Campaign will be followed by census in June this year.

Canadian Tax Expert to Advise Nigerian Government

Mr. Harvey PERRY, member Canadian Tax Foundation, has arrived to advise Council of Ministers and Nigerian Government in re fiscal and tax matters. Will advise on all-Nigeria problems, but primarily purpose is to study revenue system for Lagos as national capital. NCNC newspapers already attacking government for spending money on his trip. Say advice from another expatriate not needed here.

Anti-Syrian

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Anti-Syrian and Lebanese Campaign

The Daily Service, Lagos Action Group paper, now conducting bitter editorial campaign against Syrian and Lebanese businessmen in Nigeria. Line of attack is old one--these foreigners taking business away from Nigerian companies, etc., etc. Little talk of this prior to Service attacks, but good reason to believe many Africans share paper's viewpoint.

Erwin P. Keeler.
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American Consul General